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2015 Legislative Items of Interest for the Corporations and Charities Division

Each legislative session and throughout the year the Corporations and Charities Division attempts to track, evaluate, and participate in potential new laws that affect how we deliver services to our customers.

The 2015 legislative session has kicked off and the division has a few items that we are ready to keep an eye on.



These bills have been filed for the current legislative session:

- ⇒ [SB5030](#) — Limited Liability Companies (LLC) rewrite, prime sponsors are Senators Pedersen and O'Ban. This bill has been 5 years in the making and is a complete rewrite of RCW 25.15.
- ⇒ [SB5031](#) — Business Corporation Act, prime sponsors are Senators Pedersen and O'Ban. This bill would allow advance action regarding business opportunities. Amends RCW 23B.
- ⇒ [SB5263](#) — Establishes the Washington uniform common interest ownership act.
- ⇒ [SB5387](#) — Establishes the uniform business organizations code.

Like any session, bills can be presented or changed at several points in the process. We will do our best to participate at the appropriate levels in the best interest of our customers.

the BUZZ

2014 quarterly statistics:

October 1—
December 31, 2014

New formations/
registrations:
13,578

Total active
businesses:
448,000

Annual reports filed:
89,851

Received mail:
23,049

Scanned
documents:
116,137

Phone calls:
35,771

Average time to
answer calls:
**3 minutes 58
seconds**

HAPPENINGS

Charities and nonprofit Education

The Charities and Nonprofit Education Program was very busy in 2014 with 17 workshops presented to capacity crowds across the state. Our newest workshop, "Board Governance and More for Faith-Based Nonprofits" was introduced and proved to be a popular one. The "Fundraising Principles" workshop attracted a larger turnout than last year, with capacity attendance at four different locations. There was a total of five, full-day workshops, with two featuring a presentation by an IRS representative on tax-exempt issues. "Board Governance 101" was also offered by an expert in the field, which was extremely well-received.

The education program has also taken on an active role in educating our senior population around Washington State by visiting a number of retirement homes and senior activity centers showing our "Giving Wisely" video and discussing the messages conveyed in the video. The video and other material is left behind to help empower them against fraud and charity scams.

[Check here for Charities and Nonprofit training opportunities](#)

2014 calendar year statistics

Below are the combined annual numbers for profit and nonprofit entities calendar year 2014. This also includes numbers for mail received/processed and phone calls to the division:

New formations/registrations:
57,034

Total active business entities:
448,000

Annual reports filed:
364,689

Received mail:
80,133

Scanned documents:
817,267

Phone calls:
155,225

Average time to answer calls:
2 minutes, 48 seconds



HIGHLIGHTS

New notice for old registered agents



By popular demand we have a new process for Statement of Change filings.

Previously when a Statement of Change was filed to update the registered agent or registered office it was recorded and the data was made available on our website.

Now, when a Statement of Change is filed with our office the new agent will receive a confirmation letter in

the mail, and the previous agent will receive a notice by mail that they have been removed.

This change was made to address multiple issues with updating a registered agent:

- ♦ It notifies both the new and old registered agent that a change has been made, giving opportunity for businesses to catch a potential mistake.
- ♦ It reduces the opportunity for business identity theft by generating notice to the current registered agent that a change has occurred in the agent of record.

We look to include and expand this notification process in the development of our new filing system.

New system update

The Corporations and Charities Division continues progress toward its new filing system. It is our desire to deliver a live and publicly available system by the first quarter of 2016.

Here are the recent events in the development of this system:

- We continue with progress on system design and architecture
- We are wrapping up a business analysis on manual processes
- We are also working on a staff console that supports the improvements

Tips & Tidbits

Department of Revenue Issues a Warning:

Scammers are at it again. This time, they are targeting Washington citizens and businesses with fraudulent emails asking them to pay off tax liens owed to the state.

[Message from the Washington State Department of Revenue](#)

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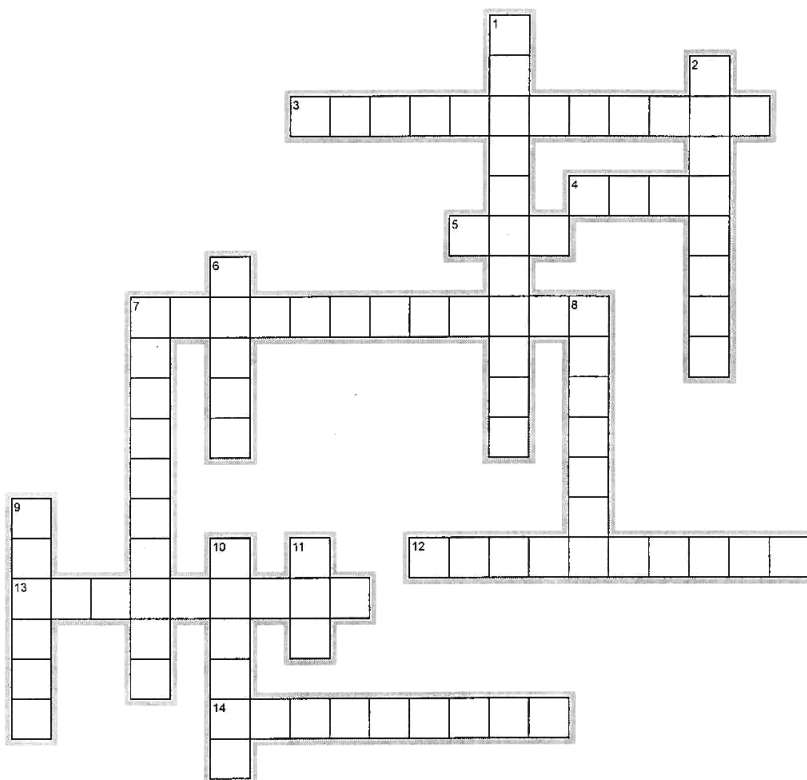
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Suggestions for this newsletter? Please contact Patrick Reed :
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Corporations and Charities Division Crossword

Crossword puzzle



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. We'll now be sending two ____ letters when you file a Statement of Change with us
4. In 2014, we received over 80,000 pieces of ____
5. Two of our recent Charities and Nonprofit workshops had representatives from the ____ to help explain tax-exempt issues
7. We hope to implement a new ____ in early 2016
12. A ____ Agent is a Person or entity named in public documents to receive notices or service of process (2 words)
13. An international certification of a notary or public official on a legal document
14. The second "L" in LLC
2. This newsletter is the "Dish from the ____" (the name of our building)
6. The Office of the Secretary of State sells State Seal items and ____
7. Our newest Charities and NonProfit education workshop is designed to help ____ organizations
8. An LLC can be managed by managers or ____
9. To update your Registered Agent, use a Statement of ____
10. We have a video encouraging people to avoid fraud in charity scams by giving ____
11. Senate Bill 5030, proposed in the Legislature this year, rewrites the laws for this type of business entity

Down

1. We have twice as many active LLC's in Washington State than this type of entity